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into Aucaners, Bekoes, Moesingas, Saramacanan and Bonis. Their peculiar beliefs and customs, upon which the Prince's volume expatiates at length, are clearly of African origin and extremely curious. Besides the *takitaki* or Negro-English jargon of Suriname (from "*talkie-talkie*"), each local sept uses special terms of African origin, and the majority also converse in the native African tongue. The *sedentary Negroes* subdivide into plantation Negroes and city Negroes, these latter forming forty-seven per cent of the whole colonial population. Specimens of the *takitaki* jargon are appended.

A sequel to this instructive volume is announced by the author himself, and we wish it may be presented to the studious public at an early day.—*A. Pinart.*

BERGEN'S DEVELOPMENT THEORY.¹—This little book is designed to present to the ordinary reader a brief summary of the evolution theory. The task is fairly well done, as the facts and theory are set forth in an attractive way, and from a varied and wide point of view.

It is just the sort of book one would give to a boy or girl, a farmer or mechanic who wanted to know what evolution means, and perhaps older people and those who have graduated from our colleges a generation ago before the doctrine became a part of ordinary scientific teaching, will find in its pages just the sort of information they want.

The facts are correctly stated, and so are the inferences. We think, however, known facts do not support the enormous antiquity ascribed to man, viz., "over two and a half million years." We think these figures are beyond those of the "best authorities." It is better in books intended for popular use to give under rather than over statements. Also the ape-like characters of the Neanderthal skull are perhaps over stated. As we understand it, Wyman found quite as brutish a skull in the Indian mounds of Florida. The evidence has yet to be afforded that the earliest known race of man in Europe was any lower than the lowest existing savages. Such evidence, may however, be forthcoming any day.

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¹ *The Development Theory.* A brief statement for general readers. By JOSEPH Y. BERGEN, Jr., and FANNY D. BERGEN. Boston, Lee & Shepard, 1884. 12mo, pp. 240.

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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

ASIA.—*The Badghis district.*—This district in Northern Afghanistan, north of the watershed of the Herat valley, consists of hills and valleys of sandstone clay, the hills rising from 200 to 600 feet, or even to 1000 feet, between two great streams. Though sand-covered and desert-looking in autumn, they are not only cultivable on their lesser slopes but exceedingly fertile, and in spring are covered with flowers and grass knee-deep. The northern and western parts have little running water, but the eastern and southern portions, along the Parapomissus and the Kushk rivers, are exceptionally fertile. Sir Hy. Rawlinson states that the Bundelesh, a work compiled before the Arab conquest (in the fourth or fifth century) derives "Badghis" from the tribe of the Vad-Keshan or "wind-worshippers." Coins of the Kushan or Tokhari show that these tribes did worship the wind. They were commonly called "White Huns," came into the land in the fourth or fifth century, and had for their capital, Talikan, thirty or forty miles east of Maruchak. Badghis (Kileh-Maur) was their strong place.

The Pescadores.—The Pescadores, recently bombarded and occupied by Admiral Courbet, are in the Formosa channel, about twenty-five miles from Formosa. The largest is Panghu, and the Chinese name for the group is Panghuting or the Panghu district. Panghu is forty-eight miles in circumference, and the next in size, Fisher's or West island, is seventeen. The population of the two larger islands was given by Admiral Collinson, in 1845, as 5000, that of all the islands, 8000. There are twenty-one inhabited islands besides several rocks. Trees are

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.